

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (previously presented) A deep fat fryer comprising:
 - a pan for holding liquid fat for frying food in a cooking environment, the pan having a topmost end;
 - a heater for heating fat in the pan;
 - a housing shielding the pan from the environment and having an upright exterior wall surface facing away from the pan; and
 - a detachable collar extending closely along and at least up to the topmost end of the pan and substantially around its periphery to intercept liquid as it passes over the topmost end and including a flange projecting outwardly from the topmost end and projecting downward closely along a preponderance of the exterior wall surface.
2. (original) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein the flange projects downwardly along at least a portion of said wall surface.
3. (original) A fryer according to claim 2, wherein a free edge of the flange abuts or extends closely along said wall surface.
4. (original) A fryer according to claim 3, wherein said wall surface has a rim having an upwardly facing surface extending around said housing, said free edge of said flange abutting or extending closely along said rim.
5. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 2, wherein said portion of said wall surface along which said flange extends is inwardly recessed relative to a portion of said wall surface located under said recessed wall portion.
6. (original) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein said flange projects away from said wall surface, a free edge of said flange being radially and outwardly spaced from said wall surface.

7. (original) A fryer according to claim 6, wherein said flange extends upwardly.
8. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein the flange has an anti-adhesive outer surface.
9. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the collar is of a flexible material.
10. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least said flange is of fat absorbing material.
11. (previously presented) A fryer according to claim 1, wherein at least said flange is of biodegradable material.
12. (previously presented) A collar for mounting in a position extending along a brim of a liquid fat holding pan of a fryer according to claim 1, the brim extending along a topmost end of the pan, the fryer further comprising a housing shielding the pan from the environment, and an upright exterior wall surface facing away from the pan; the collar having at least one portion for mounting closely along said brim; the collar including a flange projecting outwardly from the portion for mounting closely along said brim.